

Horse Stabling Regulations

The following rules and regulations governing the keeping of horses and stables were adopted at a meeting of the Gloucester Board of Health, held on Monday, June 16th, 1980, under the authority of Section 31 of Chapter III of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

SECTION 1

No person shall keep within the limits of the City of Gloucester, in any building or on any premises of which he may be the owner, leasee, tenant or occupant, any horses without a permit from the City Council and a license from the Board of Health; such license to expire annually on December 31.

SECTION 2

No person shall keep a horse on land containing less than two (2) acres. All persons shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) horses in areas up to four (4) acres, additional horses may be kept by application to the City Council and Board of Health.

SECTION 3

No person shall erect, occupy, or use for a stable any building in the City of Gloucester unless such use is approved by the Board of Health. Each stall shall contain a minimum of one hundred (100) square feet for the first animal and at least sixty (60) square feet for each additional animal.

SECTION 4

Any person who proposes to remodel a building or a portion thereof which is being used as a stable, or who proposes to renovate any existing stable, or who proposes to construct a new building which is to be used in whole or in part as a stable shall, prior to such remodeling, renovating or construction, submit plans in duplicate to the Board of Health for approval.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 5

A. Each stable shall be furnished with adequate and safe water supply, both for feeding and cleaning purposes.

B. Each stall in the stable shall be provided with adequate drainage so as to remain dry and clean.

C. Bedding shall consist of straw, hay, or like substance but shall not contain in whole or in part any wool waste.

D. All manure must be removed from the stalls at least once each day and not allowed to accumulate in corrals or other areas of the property.

E. Provisions should be made for the disposal of manure with sufficient frequency and in such manner as to be satisfactory to the Board of Health and in such a manner as to prevent the creation of objectionable conditions.

F. Location of manure pits must be approved by the Board of Health.

G. In fly breeding seasons, manure shall periodically be treated with chemicals for fly control. Any chemical approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shall suffice.

H. Floors shall consist of any material acceptable to the Board of Health such as a thin layer of sand and clay over a gravel base or crushed stone.

I. For ventilation purposes, each stable shall have an effective window area of at least ten percent (10%) of the total floor area.

J. Each stable shall be located on land with good drainage and not susceptible to flooding.

K. Each stable shall be at least one hundred (100) feet away from any swamp, stream, or pond and at least a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from the lot line and no closer than two hundred (200) feet from a dwelling on adjacent property, and must otherwise comply with Zoning regulations.

SECTION 6

The cost of licenses will be as follows:

Private: pets or personal use, etc., \$25.00 per horse

Commercial: riding stable boarding horses, etc., \$25.00 per horse

SECTION 7

A permit and/or license may be revoked within ten (10) days of written notice or temporarily suspended by the Board of Health upon violation by the holder of any of the provisions of these regulations.

SECTION 8

A permit to stable or use horses on property is not transferable.

SECTION 9

Any person who violates any of the provisions of the above regulations or a regulation or order made thereunder shall be punished by a fine of \$5.00 for each day such violation continues.

SECTION 10

All horses stabled within the City of Gloucester shall be vaccinated on a yearly basis (usually in the Spring) for Eastern and Western Encephalitis. These same horses shall be tested on an annual basis for Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins test).

SECTION 11

Those persons already possessing permits need comply with all regulations except Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5(K). All other regulations must be complied with by July 17, 1980.

ADOPTED: 6/16/80